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THE
THOMSONIAN MANUAL:

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WHICH GOVERN

THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICAL PRACTICE.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

DR. SAMUEL THOMSON,
THE ORIGINAL DISCOVERER AND FOUNDER OF THE THOMSONIAN
BOTANIC SYSTEM.

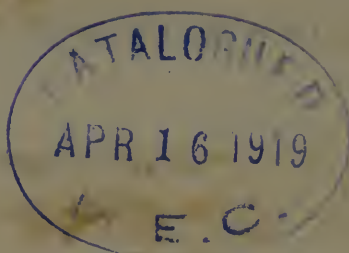
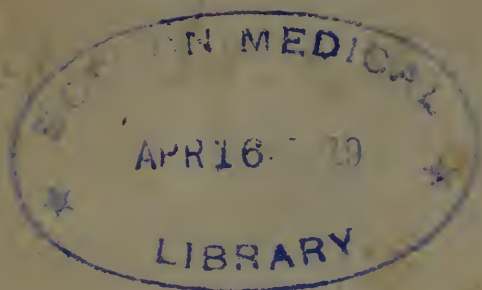
"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOL. I & II.



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PREFACE.



HAVING arrived at the conclusion of the second volume of the *MANUAL*, it becomes us to pause for a moment, in order to consider upon the progress we have made in endeavoring to extend the application of the Botanic remedies as exhibited in the Thomsonian Botanic System of Medical Practice; as well as to gather new strength in the contemplation of success already gained, to enable us to push forward with renewed activity and zeal in the philanthropic and glorious cause in which we have enlisted.

In taking a general survey of the existing state of things, with respect to the progress of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, much is beheld that is calculated to cheer and encourage, and but little, if any thing, to dishearten or depress, the philanthropist and the advocate of Medical reform, or rather, we should say, of Medical revolution—for the true Thomsonian stops at nothing short of this.

Having become enabled to bring to our assistance the herculean power of the *PRESS*, by which, on account of the misrepresentation and slander of interested opponents, we have, till within a short time, been greatly depressed,—having been enabled, we say, by the force of incontrovertible truths, to secure to the furtherance of our cause a portion of the influence of the press—its progress has latterly been so rapid as to satisfy the most sanguine advocate of the Botanic system. Indeed, the promulgation through the medium of the press, and the consequent conveyance to the ears and understandings of the people, of the principles and doctrines of the Botanic system, as they are deducible from the simple, yet natural, theory of Thomson, is all that is necessary soon to give the botanic system a decided and permanent ascendancy over that of the poisonous mineral or depletive. To shortly secure so proud a position, we only require the zealous co-operation of our friends, the union of whose exertions with our own, already has so firmly established the Thomsonian system, that its most inveterate opponents are fast becoming convinced of the utter impotence of their attempts to laugh, to sneer, to lie, or even to argue it down.

In fact, the results alone of the mineral system, compared with those of its opposite, the botanic, whenever brought into competition, have been entirely sufficient to satisfy every unbiassed or inquiring mind of the superiority of the Thomsonian theory, and the efficacy and entire safety of his system of practice. A suspicion that “all was not right” in the mineral practice, has always pervaded the minds of those whom necessity has made its victims, as well as the more intelligent generally; and the true theory of nature only required to be developed by the original genius of a Thomson, to substantiate those doubts, and to secure the co-operation of the people in the support of a system in conformity with nature and common sense. To be sure, a large number of the apologists for, and believers in, the infallibility of professional ignorance, continue to oppose the progress of reform, and by their falsehoods and slanderous tales, retard, in some degree, its onward march. But the hesitancy on the part of the public to adopt the system of Thomson, on account of the interested opposition of its revilers, until convinced beyond the possibility of a doubt of its efficacy, although it may be somewhat discouraging to the superficial observer,

assures the more reflecting that when once it is adopted, it will (as has always proved to be the case,) rarely, or never, be relinquished or misdoubted.

To the female portion of community, in an especial manner, does the Thomsonian practice more particularly commend itself, and look for warm support. Upon them have the evils of the poisoning and "forcing" practice fallen with fearfully redoubled weight; and it has been through their shattered and broken constitutions that mankind have most sorely suffered from the effects of learned quackery. With this system dawned a new era for afflicted woman; and the strength of her faith and testimony, after having once become acquainted with its effects and merits, conclusively shows the value which she places upon it.

Although the Botanic system is yet comparatively in its infancy, it has already by the force of its inherent virtues acquired the strength of a youthful and vigorous giant. And it is destined still further to progress, until indeed it utterly overthrows forever the destructive empire of mercury and the lancet. For, so be it that the people advance in general intelligence, as they have continued to do since the discovery of the art of printing, the Botanic system will not, like many other systems, abounding in erroneous predications and false deductions, which have preceded it, flourish a little season and then pass away into forgetfulness,—because the well substantiated efficacy and safety of its practical effects, as well as the simplicity and natural truth of its theory and fundamental principles, are so plain and self-evident in their developements, that the common-sense portion of the community at least, will not fail to examine, support and sustain it themselves, but will also, without doubt, teach its virtues to their offspring.

But few indeed at this moment, are opposed to the Botanic practice, other than those who are either ignorant of, or falsely prejudiced against, its excellencies; and all that is required to convince this class of the merits of the system, is only a fair and impartial exposition of it. This exposition is now being rapidly made through the pages of the Manual, and many other publications of a similar character, which are doing essential service to the cause of humanity, as well as the valuable assistance, which we are happy to acknowledge, derived from the occasional testimony of the more independent portion of the newspaper press.

In speaking, as above, of the classes yet opposed to the Botanic system, we purposely have omitted to include the death-dispensing disciples of Paracelsus—the race of mercury dealers. That they should be disposed to favor any thing tending to reform or simplify the system of medical practice, is not to be expected by those who are acquainted with even the ordinary springs of self-interest. It would be honorable and humane, most certainly, if they would endeavor to promote reform—but we may not suppose they will correct abuses who profit by their existence; and the selfishness of the world is so general, that we can hardly expect the dogmatic herd of ordinary M. D.'s to pursue a course dissonant to their real or apparent interest. Their opposition, ridicule and misrepresentation we look for, then, as a matter of course—and, expecting nothing less, we shall be always in readiness to combat it, whenever it has the temerity or the courage to make a stand.

In order to hasten the adoption of the reformed system by the people generally, all that to us appears necessary, is, that the Thomsonian practitioners should exert themselves to accumulate and imbody in a form suitable for publication in Thomsonian periodicals, such cases and facts as come within the compass of their practice or their observation, the tendency of which would be to enlighten and convince the public; and that they, and the friends of the system and humanity generally, should then lend their aid in extending the circulation of those facts among the community at large. This done, and we have not a doubt of the happy result; for, let self-sufficient egotists and learned blockheads argue as they may, there is, among the masses, sufficient intelligence and discernment to judge correctly of testimony fairly presented, and virtue enough to guard, and sustain, and properly to appreciate, principles founded in truth and honesty, when once they have been made manifest.

The opinion that what is spoken of in the preceding paragraph is all that is necessary to facilitate the march of reform, is greatly strengthened by the effect which has been produced, and the increased spirit of inquiry which has been excited, in the New-England States, particularly, since the commencement of the publication

of the Manual. Two years since, this periodical was commenced with but few patrons, merely as an experiment; and at that time the Thomsonian system was but rarely spoken of, except in the larger towns, while at the same time in the Western country, where periodicals exclusively devoted to the system have for several years been in existence, the practice in large districts appeared to be the prevailing one. But now, whichever way we cast our eyes, we hear of the system and its successes; and, for any individual not have heard something of it, would beyond cavil "argue himself unknown." That this progress, taking the inveterate, sly and slanderous hostility of the "regular" army into view, has been greatly facilitated by the array of facts which we have been able, through the kind aid of our correspondents, to lay before the public, through the pages of the Manual, there can, we think, be no doubt; and while we respectfully solicit the continuance of their favors, we acknowledge with grateful feeling, the debt which is due them from us in particular, and the friends of humanity generally. Our most ardent desire is, that the Manual may continue to be a medium of frequent communication between them and the public.

Amid all these flattering signs of success to our cause and benefit to the world, there exists but one or two circumstances, the tendency of which appears to be at all unfortunate or dubious. We refer to divisions between Thomsonians themselves, and to the transactions of trespassers upon the moral and legal rights of Dr. Thomson. So far as the success of the system, and the interests of community are concerned, the former evil is of paramount importance, though the latter may be productive of the severest individual injustice. Whenever those difficulties are the result of honest contrariety of opinion, we by no means would desire to stifle inquiry or discussion in the smallest degree. Neither have we, while endeavoring to inculcate the theory and practice of Thomson, the least fear or reluctance in examining into the merits of any other system to which our attention may be attracted. All we would ask on this point is, that so far as the system of Thomson is proved to be meritorious, the credit justly due to merit, be rendered unto him. We cannot patiently look on, while cunning knaves, by means of filching from his Guide, and garbling the precepts inculcated by him, are raising themselves from native insignificance, solely at his expense. If they have systems of their own to propose, let them be proposed under the names and credit of their legitimate authors, and obtain the confidence of the public by their intrinsic merits. But it is unfair that Thomson should, for the few days which remain to him to enjoy it, be unjustly deprived of the profit and honor due for a long life of usefulness and toil; and we doubt not the public have only to be made acquainted with the dishonesty of the pretended improvers of his system, to be induced to frown them down. So long as individuals adopt the appellation of Thomsonians, let them follow out the principles and practice inculcated by Thomson, influenced only by the dictates of nature and common sense, and let this be the true and only test of genuine Thomsonism.

A more detestable class of trespassers, though the mischief of both is often combined in a single individual, are they who manufacture and palm upon the public spurious and secret compounds or nostrums under the name of Thomson. These do an injury which no ordinary penalty can reach—an injury so wicked in its tendencies and character, that, before being led to the adoption of such a course, men must be lost to all sense of integrity and honor, or contempt and shame. In order to guard against the impositions of this class, it behoves the public to be at all times vigilant. [The "villainous compounds" of these trespassers, among whom may be included many "druggists," can easily be avoided by the inhabitants of this vicinity, by their procuring medicine directly from Dr. Thomson in person; others may escape the spurious articles, by application to any authorized agent, a list of whose names will be found upon another page of this work, to which the attention of the reader is directed.]

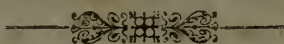
We but express the avowed sentiments of Dr. Thomson himself, when we say, that, so far as improvement in Medicine is concerned, neither we nor himself, are in any degree opposed thereto; but, on the contrary, would favor any thing which may be satisfactorily shown to be an improvement on, or a superior to, any preparation or article of his discovery or use. If any individual, for example, can point out an article which will answer a better purpose to effect similar ends, than is accomplished

by Thomson's No. 1, or Lobelia,—let it take the place of Lobelia at once, and let the honor and credit of the discovery be awarded in full to the author of the substitute. But until better substitutes for any or all of Thomson's numbers can be produced, let us have no substitutes at all. Most earnestly, also, do we protest against any mixture of Thomson's articles with others, in order that the virtues of the former may give currency to the latter, and the whole to be thus imposed upon the community as articles of Thomson's use or approval. The community cannot be too wary in regard to impositions of this nature, which are far from being uncommon.

To all secret nostrums or specifics whatsoever, the true Thomsonian is totally opposed. Secresy in fact is what he most avoids, for he has no errors and craft like those of the "faculty" to conceal. And he depends much more upon the dictates of nature, and the known virtues of his medicine, than upon the jargon of baseless "science," or his skill in "guessing." While the regular system fosters and often adopts the nostrums of quacks, Thomsonism repudiates and rejects them all.

As we have spoken in relation to theories of disease and systems of practice, so also would we speak of medicines. If better than Thomson's can be produced, give us evidence that they are better, and we will adopt them. But until others can be fairly proved superior, let us retain those of Thomson, in all their original plainness and simplicity—totally unencumbered by the blinding jargon of the "schools."

In conclusion, we would with respectful feelings present to our friends, the patrons of this work, thanks for the encouragement it has received at their hands. It shall be our earnest endeavor hereafter that it merit a continued extension of that favor, without which our strongest efforts in the cause of medical reform would be but barren in their results. Let us have the active assistance of our friends, until a fair understanding of the principles of the system we inculcate be once obtained by the community, and not a doubt remains with us that the latter will justly appreciate its merits, and honor its Founder for the incalculable benefit which, through him, has accrued to the human race.



INDEX EXPLANATIONS. In preparing the Index, we have endeavored to make the references as full as possible. Where an article cannot be found under one head, let it be sought under another; the principal subjects being referred to under one, two, and sometimes three heads; as the subject matter, the character of the composition, the name of the author, &c. Important cases of disease, for example, may be found under the head of Cases, Certificates, Testimony, &c. Many of the articles detailing important cases, and being at the same time, without distinguishing heads or titles, rendered this course the more necessary and proper, to enable the reader more easily to refer to points on which he may desire information. If the reader should find in the index, a reference to a subject on any particular page, on which, when he turns to it, he should find no such head, let him not be discouraged, but read the whole page, and the subject of reference will be found.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

JONAS W. CHAPMAN respectfully gives notice that he has on hand, at Dr. THOMSON'S General Depot, No. 33, Washington-street, Boston, every description of PURE BOTANIC MEDICINES used in the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice: prepared by Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, the original discoverer and founder of the System, and warranted genuine.

Also, Family Rights, Robinson's Lectures, and other works on the Botanic System—Syringes, &c. &c.—and all the principal articles necessary for general practice or family use.

J. W. C. cannot forbear cautioning the public against impostors, who pretend to practice upon the Thomsonian system, but who do not use a single article prepared by Dr. Thomson. The public might as well be poisoned by the minerals of the diplomatic faculty, as by the spurious and deleterious articles of quacks, calling themselves "Botanic Physicians." *Verbum sat*—"A word to the wise," &c. That it may not be supposed that these remarks are made invidiously, the public are respectfully invited to call and examine for themselves specimens of the "nostrums" alluded to.

TO THE PUBLIC.

We are determined, as far as in us lies, to prevent the public from being imposed upon by a set of men, who, setting all justice, not to say gratitude, aside, seem determined to abuse them, by palming upon them a mongrel system of practice, at the same time using Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON'S name, and other vile means—and some using his medicines without his name, to insure the success of their impositions. For the purpose of more fully accomplishing this, we shall publish a standing list of all such persons, and request all our agents to use every means to ferret them out and give us information of the same, properly vouched, that they may be added to the list. We also intend to publish a list of acknowledged agents, to whom we respectfully refer the public. The list of those who are not agents commences with

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Aaron Dow, Lowell, Mass.

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J. A. Brown, Providence, R. I.

Benjamin Thompson, Concord, N. H., (now in New York.)

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Charles Holman, Portsmouth, N. H.

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Also—All Druggists, in and out of the city, who pretend to sell Thomsonian medicine.

APR 16 1835

THOMSONIAN LIBRARY MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME I.]

BOSTON, NOVEMBER, 1835.

[NUMBER 1.

PROSPECTUS.

Having commenced a new periodical, and thereby added one more to the already numerous publications that are now before this great reading Republic, (for such the American people may be truly called) it will undoubtedly be expected that we give something of our views and intentions in commencing this work, which we call, for the sake of a name, the *THOMSONIAN MANUAL*, and which we can give in substance in a very few words.

This work will be what its title emphatically imports: viz. a *MANUAL*, or collection of facts which may transpire from time to time as circumstances may give rise to them, which have an immediate bearing on, related to, or connected with, the most important subject that has ever come under the observation or contemplation of man: that of prolonging life, and restoring the sick to health.

Dr. *Samuel Thomson's* discoveries in relation to diseases and their antidotes or cures, have thrown a brilliant light on the science of medicine, which of all sciences is confessedly the most important. So important is a knowledge of this science, that it should not be confined to a learned few; but, like every other branch of general science, should be known by every individual of the human race; as it is most intimately connected with every man's and every woman's well being. And although it may seem uncharitable, yet we cannot avoid expressing the opinion, that however many valuable discoveries had been made in the vegetable or botanic fields, as antidotes to disease, yet until the invaluable discoveries of Dr. *Thomson*, and especially while the remedies were confined principally to minerals, this science had been hidden for many centuries in almost midnight darkness as solemn as the grave. It was enveloped in all the wretchedness of learned ignorance, and trammelled with all the bigotry of a profound superstition.

We feel no enmity against the regular physicians, neither as a body, nor as individuals; but on the contrary have the highest respect

for the intellectual attainments and high moral standing of many with whom we are acquainted. No, it is not them; but it is the system, or rather the systems, (for nearly every physician has a system of his own) on which they practice, with which we shall contend, by showing from numerous and indubitable facts, that such systems have no real foundation either in nature or in truth.

Nothing more will be necessary than to publish plain simple truth to set the public right on this subject; and people will soon see that every wicked attempt either to crush Dr. *Thomson* or to destroy his system of practice, has resulted in the discomfiture of his opposers rather than in any real injury of either him or his system of practice.

But it is gratifying to know that in spite of all that has been said and done by its enemies, the *Thomsonian* system of practice has spread, and is still spreading rapidly in every part of the United States. And of late it has extended its boundaries as far as Europe. And happy indeed it would be for man, were it to become as boundless as the earth on which we live.

The *Thomsonians* are becoming very formidable; and, to use a military phrase, will soon be able to raise an army that will strike terror into the ranks of their opposers; for each soldier in the good cause, armed as he is with the sword of reason and truth, will unsheath and do his duty.

Believing in the pure and simple principles on which the *Thomsonian* system of practice is founded, and that they are as immutable as truth itself, the *Manual* will demonstrate and advocate it in its native simplicity as taught by the founder himself; and no pains will be spared to spread and circulate it as extensively as possible.

The *Thomsonian Manual* has been called into existence by the wants and necessities of the people, (for there are a great many who do not as yet know any thing of Dr. *Thomson's* invaluable discoveries) together with the doings of the enemies of the system in general, and

those in New England in particular. Yea, there are sufficient causes in Boston why there should be such a vehicle of communication: for here, in addition to the general enemy, we have a few wolves in *Thomsonian* clothing. Beware of an enemy disguised under the mask of friendship. These mongrel Thomsonians have lately formed themselves into a Society, and have called themselves the "Massachusetts Botanic Society;" which society has in its wisdom seen fit to issue a declaration of independence of Dr. *Thomson*. But such a declaration ought in justice and in truth to have been called a declaration of dishonesty, and of their determination to cheat or wrong the venerable founder out of his just rights.

Should it be asked, why is all this opposition? We answer, simply because Dr. *Thomson* will not let them cheat and defraud him; or simply because he will not let them speculate on his discoveries, under his name, and by his authority, for their own exclusive benefit and at the expense of the public.

It will be one object of the Manual to expose to the light every base design in relation to the *Thomsonian* system, and to detect and expose every thing pretending to be *Thomson's* system of practice which is not purely *Thomsonian*.

After all, utility will ever be the polar star of the Manual; and every thing bearing the stamp of utility appertaining to the Botanic System will always find a place in our columns. And so long as there exists any doubts as to the correctness or the superiority of the new system over the old, this publication will be needed, and as long as a doubt exists, it behoves every man, and especially every man possessing a family, to take the Manual or some other similar paper. The *Thomsonian Recorder* printed at Columbus, Ohio, is a valuable paper, of three years standing; and as it has had but few subscribers in this part of the country, though of very extensive patronage, we shall draw largely from its columns; particularly of such articles as are of general utility.

The *Thomsonian Manual* will be printed on superior paper, with new type, and in a form suitable for binding. It will contain one third more matter, at least, than any similar paper in the United States; and when the time shall come that the *Thomsonian* System shall have met with universal reception, it will, as it is

intended, answer as a good book of reference. It will appear at present but monthly, and the price to subscribers one dollar a year in advance; but whenever the patronage will warrant it, and the wants of the public call for it, then it will be published semi-monthly, and the price enhanced accordingly.

All communications, or orders designed for the Manual, to merit attention, must be directed (post paid) to the Publishers.

JAMES HOWARTH & Co.
Boston, Mass. No. 6 Congress Square.

[From the Botanic Watchman.]

We would invite the attention of our readers to the following communication from a gentleman of Concord, N. H., to the Hon. Isaac Hill, a member of the U. S. Senate.

It gives a very interesting account of the success that has already attended the practice of that enterprising *Thomsonian* Physician, Dr. Benjamin Thompson, late of Boston, Mass. We are highly gratified with the intelligence that the cause is getting a firm hold in the Metropolis of the Granite State.—Ed.

[From the New Hampshire Observer.]

Copy of a Communication to the Hon. Isaac Hill.
Concord, Mass., January 1, 1835.

HON. ISAAC HILL;

Dear Sir.—As there appears to be considerable excitement here at present, and knowing you generally to be very much interested in such matters, I have taken the liberty to invite your attention to the following, and, from the nature of the subject, cannot but flatter myself that you will be highly gratified with the perusal. The excitement that I have reference to is neither Religious nor Political, but what is quite uncommon, and, if I may so express myself, a Medical Excitement. The Regular Medical Gentlemen here are quite alarmed, on account of one of their Botanic Opposers coming into the place, and introducing his practice. You will remember Dr. Thompson, of Boston, coming into this place a short time I think before you left for Washington; and moreover, I am informed that you made a trial of some part of the system, and was highly pleased with the operation. Of course you are acquainted with the gentleman and his system of practice. I myself have not yet had the satisfaction of testing the virtues of the medicine from experience, but have witnessed their surprising effects upon others, insomuch that I am thoroughly convinced, let the ignorant and prejudiced do what they will, the *Thomsonian* System of Medicine is the only system that will afford the true balm of consolation to that unhappy part of our fellow creatures, the sick and the infirm. A new era seems to have commenced in medical science. Dr. Thompson has indeed done wonders in the healing art. He has performed cures in the absence of

all hope in patients, friends and regular physicians. Of the many cases he has had, a few have come to my knowledge which justice compels me to mention. A young gentleman who had been out of health for several years and who I understand was at the Infirmary the same time that you were, and, in consequence of your advice, took one course of medicine, declared as I am informed, that he received more relief in fifteen minutes, under the operation of Botanic Medicines, than he had before for four years, when under the charge of some of the most eminent physicians of the state; a few days after he took another course, and was cured. A gentleman by the name of Marden, from Chichester, who had been afflicted with the dyspepsia and all its attendant train of evils for several years, came to the Infirmary with the intention of remaining one week, and was enabled to return to his family the third day after he left them, a well man.—This case I understand has caused considerable excitement in Chichester and its neighboring towns. A young lady, deplorable case of mental derangement, cured in a fortnight. A lady from London, who at the age of seven years suffered severely from a paralytic shock, after which she continued in a very low state of health, and was attended without any benefit, by seventeen regular physicians, came to the Infirmary, took two courses of medicine, and was enabled to make a hearty meal of animal food, of which she had not been able to taste for ten years. Remains well and able to labor at the present time. Dr. Thompson's success in fevers has indeed been great. He has taken patients from about all our Regular Physicians here, and restored them to health in a few hours; although some of them were thought to be dangerously sick by their friends and M. D. attendants, and no prospect of recovering under six or eight weeks, if they did at all. One of the many important cases of this kind I will notice in full. A young man in the employ of Messrs Downing and Abbott, proprietors of the well known State Coach Manufactory in this place, had been for several days afflicted with a severe cold. His friends at last concluded it would be advisable to send out for a physician. In a short time the M. D. appeared, who, after examining his patient, told him that, by losing a small quantity of blood (followed of course by a dose of calomel,) he would escape a fever with which he was threatened. Accordingly the doctor went to work, took three pints of blood, gave his physic, pronounced his patient doing well, and then left him. The next morning the doctor was so obliging as to call and declare the consoling intelligence to his patient that he had a settled lung fever. And what else could the doctor or any person of common sense expect from the butchery, which the young man was compelled to submit to the morning previous. However, the young man had a fever, and must be attended to accordingly. Preparations were then made for a six weeks job at least; one side was wrapped up

in an enormous blister, a nurse was procured to attend the patient, and the poisonous drugs dealt out. The patient continued to grow worse during the day, and no wonder, for who would not be sick with such a gloomy, heart-rending prospect before them? Fortunately, however, for the young man, Mr. Downing was a patient at the Infirmary that day, and several of his friends being there to see him, they insisted upon Dr. Thompson's visiting the young man in question. Dr. Thompson accordingly went, and met the M. D. there. Thompson then questioned him in regard to the case; but his conduct showed that he either knew nothing about the case or else was so exasperated at the prospect of losing his patient, that he was determined to remain obstinate and have nothing to say upon the subject; for, on Thompson's proposing the following question, viz. If it could be known that a fever could be cured from thirty minutes to twenty-four hours to the extent—if it would not be desirable for every physician to know it? To which the M. D. would not answer in the affirmative to the astonishment of all in the room. Thompson then declared to him that it could be done, and that he would do it at the risk of one thousand dollars against fifty. This and similar questions, and the M. D's conduct, perfectly satisfied the young man and his friends that he had enough of bleeding, and blistering, and the lung fever; and that it was about time to make some effort to get rid of this multitude of evils, which he was quite confident he could do by dismissing the Esculapian attendant and using the *Thomsonian* medicines. He accordingly requested his friends to wrap him up, (for he was unable to help himself) and carry him to the Infirmary; and, although the evening was considerably advanced, and the air damp and unpleasant, by nine o'clock he declared to his friends, to use his own words, that he was a new man, and in a new world, and that he had not even a sign of fever. So much was effected in about two hours time. The next morning he rose to all appearance well, except the weakness which was occasioned by the loss of blood the Saturday morning previous. The third day after, he commenced work, and has been able to labor ever since, and says that he never enjoyed better health than he does at the present time. This case, you may well think, has made great talk wherever it was known.

Dr. Thompson's Proclamation, which appeared in several of the papers on his first coming here, and which was considered so harsh and abusive to the Regular Physicians, is now, since the truth has come to light, and prejudice been done away, thought to be a mild and candid statement of facts in strong language, and such as would be approbated and countenanced by any man who was so well informed upon the subject, and felt so great an interest in the welfare of his fellow creatures as Dr. Thompson. The plan also for killing Thompson (or his practice) which was proposed by a certain M. D.

of this town, to one of his health destroying brothers, seems not to have met with success; for Dr. Thompson is yet alive, and so are all his patients, which is the best recommendation a physician can have—and which I regret to say our regular physicians very seldom obtain. There is not only considerable excitement among the physicians, but with the community generally. People here begin to understand that the same means which will make a well person sick, will not make a sick person well. They begin to be convinced that the medicine for removing diseases are not to be had from the deep mines of the mineral kingdom, but from the fields where a kind Providence has provided them bountifully and promiscuously with our daily food. There appears to be a general manifestation of friendly feeling towards Dr. *Thomson** and his system of practice, and a willingness to support and patronize him. The Regulars have shown a deep antipathy towards Thompson, and will and are doing all in their power to injure him. But when the public become satisfied that the long list of diseases which “flesh is heir to,” can be effectually removed in comparatively a few hours, and that too by simple means, it is my candid opinion, that they will, with pleasure and gratitude, sanction such a course, and at once put down those deadly enemies of the human family, the mineralists.

The Concord Botanic Infirmary has met with such unparalleled success, and received such extensive patronage, that its enterprising proprietor has been induced to purchase the next estate joining, consisting of the large house built, as you will recollect, the past season, by the Messrs. Dearborns, with all the land in that location recently owned by said Dearborns and Mr. S. Bullard, which form almost a whole square, and which the doctor informs me he intends to lay out in small gardens, walks, &c., to be kept exclusively for the amusement of patients residing at the Infirmary. He also intends building from his present Infirmary to said Dearborn's house, and has other improvements in contemplation, which, when completed, will render the Concord Botanic Infirmary one of the most extensive and elegant institutions of the kind in New England.

The cause of *Thomsonism* is truly a glorious cause, and one worthy the attention of every individual who is a friend of humanity. It is a cause fast gaining in popularity, and powerful and influential advocates; and I sincerely hope, for the well being of my fellow mortals, it will continue to rise, until Regular Physicians shall become convinced that, although their cause is supported by science and talent, it cannot be beneficial to the human family; when, instead of lessening, it only adds to the sum of human misery.

* It should always be remembered by our readers that Dr. *Samuel Thomson*, the original discoverer of the *Thomsonian System* of medical practice, spells his name without the *p*.

.. THOMSONISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER!

I read in one of your late papers an article entitled *THE BATTLE OF DOCTORS*, purporting to have been contested at *Baltimore* on Lyceum ground. The account seemed chiefly serious, but partly ludicrous. But as it related to the very serious subject of health and disease, or in other words life and death, I could not drive the narrative out of my mind. The practice of Physic, I am bold to say, admits of great reform; yet it is no joke, and is really a subject worthy the utmost attention of the people, and I have often reflected with surprise that it has been left at such loose ends in this State, where we scrutinize and find fault with everything, and every profession, excepting that on which our comfort depends; for what are riches and elegant dwellings without health to enjoy them.

It seems the Lyceum question was whether the *THOMSONIAN PRACTICE* ought to be encouraged? Now, this includes another question, viz:—whether regular Physicians ought to encourage it, or the *People*? If I mistake not, more than a million of people in the United States have already answered that question and said—*Let it be encouraged*.

There arose a serious question in my mind—a question of honor and conscience, namely, ought I to be silent on the solemn subject, or to give my opinion. I have determined on the latter; and that because I have received a considerable number of letters from Maryland, and farther south on the same subject, and as I have received some loaded with postage, the writers may receive the trifling value of my opinion without a cent's expense to them or me.

With due submission to that privileged body of physicians denominated through courtesy, *the faculty*, I should place *Samuel Thomson* among the *reformers* of the healing art.

The famous *GALEN* dictated the laws of medicine full fourteen hundred years after his death, by his, then, matchless writings. After the revival of letters, *Paracelsus*, who was born 1493 in Switzerland, appeared as a reformer of the system of Galen. He was learned in Latin, Greek, and several other languages, and of respectable connexions. He first introduced mercury (*quicksilver*)—antimony and opium in the *materia medica*; but he was arrogant, vain and profligate, and after living the life of a vagabond, died a confirmed sot. He studied mystery, and wrapped up his knowledge in terms of his own invention, so as to keep his knowledge confined to himself and a few chosen followers. The very reverse of *Thomson*, who performs numberless cures, and makes no secret of the means. The cant phrase of “*Quack*” belongs to the learned *Paracelsus*; but not to the mystery-hating *Thomson*, who considers mystery and roguery offsprings of the same father—the man of sin—the old father of lies and deception. If *Thomson* be a quack, he is a quack *sui generis*, or a cheat of a new and singular class.

In one thing every thinking man must and will agree; for it admits of no dispute. It will be admitted as an axiom, namely—the *Thomsonian* practice has been diffused through New-England between 15 and 20 years, and still maintains its credit; and every year its roots strike deeper, and its branches spread wider and wider. Now make any man of due reflection believe that such a practice could have spread so wide among such a discerning, inquisitive people as we of New England certainly are, without having discovered its *nothingness*,—its worse than nothingness,—its vain and nonsensical pretensions. The thing is impossible. If the *Lobelia* had been proved a worthless plant, it would have been years ago, “*thrown like a loathsome weed away*.” On the contrary, I had rather be without that very nauseous powder, *Ipecac*, which makes me spit while I write, than to be deprived of the more agreeable and efficacious *Lobelia*.

We import *Ipecacuanha* from South America, and sometimes use it after it has been a dozen or twenty years out of the ground, whereas we can cultivate the *LOBELIA* in our own gardens, and pick it up in our own fields. I not only prescribe it to others, but I take it myself whenever I have any occasion for an emetic. I value it equally with the Peruvian bark, or with rhubarb, jalap or senna, or any other medicinal plant you can mention. Instead of *Lobelia*, it ought in justice, in honor, and in gratitude to be called *THOMSONIA emetica*.

But the discovery of the medicinal qualities of this indigenous plant, is not the sole merit or *felicity* of *Samuel Thomson*. His vapor-bath-process, to which the *Lobelia* is the *Prodromos*, (or in plain English file-leader, or fore-runner) is, taken together a very valuable *improvement* in our practice, if conducted by persons as experienced and as sagacious as is the *Patriarch Thomson*; for the defect, or the circumstance the most to be lamented is—his setting up *Agents* who cannot be supposed to have his experience, skill, or *tact*, in conducting the whole process. For my part, I wonder that more fatal accidents have not occurred, by being entrusted to people who have purchased the patent privilege without obtaining the master’s knowledge. In England, Parliament would, probably, have purchased the procedure by a liberal grant. In France, at least under the old *regime*, the King would have bought it. But we, wiser than any of them, have only tried to pick it to pieces. Still I consider it a valuable anchor, the emblem of Hope, to which is attached a firm cable, that numbers have been trying in vain to pick to oakum; but which will, I trust, be like the strongly twisted cord that binds our happy States together, acquiring strength by age.

To weigh *Patriarch Thomson* in the scales of the regular physician would be as unjust as for them to be weighed by his steelyards. They practice on different principles, feelings and views. Each honest in their respective paths of art and nature. They both will come

out in the same road at last, and travel on together to the Temple of honor and profit.

Samuel Thomson, like most reformers, has endured in our county of Essex, as much severe persecution as ever was perpetrated in it; which is saying a great deal, when we call to mind the days of the delusion of *Witchcraft*. Though *capitally* indicted for murder, by using *Lobelia*, he was discharged without trial, after something like a reprimand of the Solicitor-General by the Court. Yet it is remarkable that Chief-Justice Parsons deemed it worth while to write the report of it in the VI. Vol. of Tyng’s collections.

I feel diffident and doubtful whether I have said too much, or too little on a subject that will increase in importance by time. Reformers—Originators—and Exterminators of loathsome and shocking diseases, are always considered as benefactors of the whole human race—not merely those who are now living, but of those who shall live after us, as long as letters, and other records shall endure.

The measure of praise is too often given without due consideration or sufficient expansion of thought. Our friend Worcester might easily pose Christopher Columbus, were he to examine him on all the coasts, bays, islands and rivers on the Globe, while that immortal discoverer, standing alone on the shore of Cape Finisterre, and casting the eye of his capacious mind, from the vast Atlantic moving before him, and then up to Heaven, said, with confidence—*There is another and better world than this*: and he proved his theory by his practice, and thereby obtained the rich title of the *Benefactor of the Western world!*

Cambridge, Dec. 1834.

B. W.

THE BATTLE OF THE DOCTORS. The Baltimore Lyceum, recently discussed the question, Whether the *Thomsonian* practice of medicine ought to be encouraged? Several of the Medical Faculty of the city were present, and participated in the debate. From the account of this discussion, in the Baltimore Gazette, it may be supposed that the grave and learned members of the Faculty gathered but few laurels, though it seems that the question was decided in their favor. A Mr. Williams, who commenced the discussion, said he considered the question as settled in the affirmative. The *Thomsonians* had many patients in cholera, all or nearly all of whom were cured—many of them, after the Faculty had pronounced them incurable. He visited one lady, deemed incurable, and found her in such a condition that he remained all night with her, (a laugh!) After a few days, the lady completely recovered. He could cite other cases, all of which, demonstrated the safety and efficacy of the *Thomsonian* practice.

Dr. Bond, senior, made a learned and eloquent speech against the practice, ridiculing some of *Thomson’s* principles, and concluded by remarking that he should render himself un-

popular by the course he had adopted, but he was past the meridian of life, and was indifferent to the consequence; he had as much practice in the profession as he wanted; and was not afraid of its being diminished by *Thomsonism*, &c. &c.

Mr. GODFREY MEYER had listened to the Doctor's theory, all of which was worth nothing at all. The faculty had had many theories, all of which were contradictory. The Galenists were upset by the disciples of Paracelsus, and these, in their turn had been upset by others. From the time when Sydenham introduced depletion by the use of the lancet, things had gone still worse, till at last Dr. Rush confessed that medicine, as practised by the faculty, was unworthy of the name of science. Robinson, in his Lectures had proved it completely. To rescue medicine from this disgraceful condition, Dr. *Thomson* had arisen; who with nature for his guide, and with a diploma from the Almighty, had done more good than all his predecessors. His disciples amounted to 2,000,000, who were satisfied with his plan as his medicines never failed, whereas the mineral medicines used by the faculty had destroyed more persons than the sword.

This thrust at the Faculty, raised up Dr. Featherbridge, who sent a few cold shot into the opposite ranks, in return. A Mr. Walker, next addressed the Lyceum, after the following manner:—

He had lost two of his children, when the regular practitioners attended his family, but since his having called in *Thomsonians*, he had not lost one, and his expenses were reduced. It had been ascertained that more deaths had occurred in the families of the former within a given time, than in those of the latter. This was easily explained. The *Thomsonians* were their own doctors; and as they used good medicines, they easily cured themselves. In consequence too, of their following nature, they were more prolific than the members of the Faculty. (A laugh.) He wondered that any man could be so blind to his own interest as not to adopt the *Thomsonian* remedies.

After this Mr. Winchester, addressed the meeting, in a style partaking rather more of the passionate than the pathetic—calling the *Thomsonians* a set of ignoramuses, and other such ungentle appellations. Mr. Robert Walker said—

Physicians attached wonderful importance to high-sounding words, just as if their Latin names for horns and stools, enabled them to understand diseases the better. He himself had been attended by a *Thomsonian*, who told him, not that the nervous tissues of his pericranium were disordered, but that he had the headache, and he really believed it was the headache! If he were to say, that in consequence of the circular membrane of his digitals having been severed, the venous and arterial cylinders, had discharged their sanguinous fluid, would it be plainer than to say he had cut his fingers? (A laugh) Yet this was the sort of jargon by which physicians had im-

posed on the credulity of mankind, who were apt to suppose that sesquipedalian words implied superior understanding. The *Thomsonians*, by discarding such nonsense, had shown that they were above practising deceit. For himself, he could satisfy that the *Thomsonian* medicine had cured his maladies and restored him to health. A former speaker had spoken of old women's remedies; but could he bring forward 500 old women who would speak of this efficacy of calomel? Supposing he could, what would it prove, but that it was, after all, only the remedy of so many old women! (A laugh.)

A Mr. Candler, next took the floor, and came near flooring all the *Thomsonians*, and Mr. Edward Postlethwaite Page, likewise. This Mr. Edward Postlethwaite Page had, on the preceding evening, declared, that his name of Postlethwaite included the title of Apostle; and that Jesus Christ had commissioned him to proclaim that the day of judgment would occur in 1836, and he (Mr. Candler,) considered this man entitled to as much credence, as far as supernatural gifts were concerned, as was *Samuel Thomson*. Mr. Candler, concluded by suggesting, that when the question should be put to the vote, neither the *Thomsonians* nor the regular physicians should be allowed to vote; since men who were put upon trial, had no right to sit on the jury. (A very sensible remark.)

Mr. Lamb talked about his ailments, till the President declared that he had talked out his allotted time. And last came Dr. Yates, who said, (what we have heard said by at least five hundred men, who had spent three days in preparing a speech,) that when he entered the room he had no intention of taking any part in the discussion; but he felt inclined to make a few remarks, &c. When Dr. Yates sat down, the question was called for: it was moved and carried, that neither the *Thomsonians* nor the regular physicians should be allowed to vote. After which, on the vote being taken, there appeared in the affirmative, 71; negative, 147; majority against the *Thomsonians*, 75.* So the *Thomsonites* were defeated with much loss; and the "regular physicians" went forth unmo-
lest, conquering and to conquer. And then

The Sun,

Descending, closed the warfare of the day.

* The above vote is totally incorrect; the majority was overwhelming on the other side.—ED.

STEAM QUACKERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER:

It may surprise many to learn, that a steamshop established in England, on the principles of an empiric, who has encountered a goodly share of ridicule and persecution from the legalized practitioners of this country, has received the sanction of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London. A like institution has been founded in France, with the patronage of Magendie, the acknowledged head of the Fac-

ulty of Paris. Having the best and very direct authority for making these statements, I do so, not because I think the testimony of great names from beyond the Atlantic is very important for establishing facts, which we may better ascertain by using our own eyes at home; but because a large part of our community, seeming quite disposed to be ridiculed out of the use of their own eyes, it may be an act of kindness to all concerned, to furnish them with the means of judging, where ultimately the ridicule (not to say the indignation) of a disabused people is likely to fall heaviest.

When Galileo broached the doctrine, that the earth revolves round the sun, it seemed so plainly the dream of a mad man, so contrary to the evidence of men's senses, and to the received sense of Holy Writ, that the infallible Church condemned it as heresy. It was not according to the analogy of her proceedings, to warn people against receiving so strange a novelty, without careful investigation. When therefore the progress of discovery was bringing it out pretty clearly, that Galileo was no mad man, but the asserter of an important truth, the infallible Church began to feel herself somewhat in an awkward predicament, having staked her infallibility on a position, to defend which was hopeless against the increasing light of the age; and which to yield was like the giving up of the ghost. I leave to the consciousness of the only profession, which popular superstition among us still invests with infallibility and a divine right, to say, how nearly *mutato nomine de se fabula narratur*.

W. W.

Dorchester, April 18, 1835.

'GOLDEN OPINIONS.'

The Flora of North America is astonishingly rich in remedies. There is no doubt in my mind, that in more diseases than is generally acknowledged, vegetable simples are the preferable remedies. Who knows but in time, these native productions of the field and forest, will so enlarge and confirm their dominion, as to supercede the employment of other medicines.—*Prof. Waterhouse.*

To yield to any authority would here be criminal. Facts must and will stand.—*Dr. Underwood.*

It would be highly advantageous to the public, and likewise to the best part of the Medical Profession, if the predisposition and occasions of disease were made a portion of the education of every gentleman.—*Dr. Armstrong.*

Every physician must rest on his own judgment, which appeals for its rectitude to nature and experience alone.—*Gregory.*

An obstinate adherence to an unsuccessful method of treating a disease, is self-conceit—it generally proceeds from ignorance—it is a species of pride to which the lives of thousands have been sacrificed.—*Ibid.*

Our want of success is occasioned by the following causes; 1st, our ignorance of the dis-

ease; 2d, our ignorance of a suitable remedy; 3d, want of efficacy in the remedy.—*Ibid.*

If truth doth any where manifest itself, seek not to smother it with glossing delusion: acknowledge the greatness thereof, and esteem it thy best victory when the same doth prevail over thee.—*Hooker.*

The whole nation is groaning under the present practice of the Medical Profession, which fosters disease more than cures it, and debases or ruins our constitutions.—*Morrison.*

All men ought to be acquainted with the medical art. I believe that knowledge of medicine is the sister and companion of wisdom.—*Hippocrates.*

In early times skill in healing was esteemed a part of wisdom. I believe the practice of medicine should be agreeable to reason.—*Celsus.*

As health is the most precious of all things, and is the foundation of all happiness, the science of protecting life and health is the noblest of all, and most worthy the attention of all mankind.—*Hoffman.*

Original.

Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON.

Dear Sir:—Being acquainted with your system of practice, and having been informed that you are about getting out, or publishing a paper on that system, called the "Thomsonian Manual," it has occasioned the following remarks. If you think them worthy, you will give them a place in your paper, which I anticipate will be very useful.

Dr. THOMSON'S THEORY.—A great deal of time, and breath, has of late, been wasted by our enemies, (enemies, did we say! yes enemies! for all who condemn, or even oppose, any science, or system, before they have investigated, or examined the principles on which that science or system stands, and that too with candor and impartiality, are more justly entitled to the appellation of enemies than that of opponents,) in a fruitless attempt to prove, by empty declamation, (for our enemies have substituted, unhappily for them, opinion and declamation, for fact and reason,) that *Thomson's* system is incorrect, as well, as, that his distribution of the four elements, is unphilosophical.

Dr. *Thomson's* Principles are few and simple. They may be stated as follows.

I. That the constitutions of all mankind are essentially alike, and differ only in the different temper of the same materials of which they are composed. The materials of which all men are formed may be resolved into the four elements. Earth and water, air and caloric, or fire: which latter element, in a peculiar manner, gives life and motion to the rest, and when entirely overpowered, from whatever cause, by the other elements, death ensues.

II. That the construction and organization of the human frame are in all men essentially the same. They have similar solids and fluids,

viz. *integuments, bones, joints, cartilages, muscles, tendons, ligaments, blood and blood vessels, lymphatics or lacteals, glands, organs, nerves, &c.*

III. That all are sustained in a manner as similar as their formation, from the earth, the common mother of us all.—Of the elements man is made, and by the same elements he is supported.

IV. That a state of perfect health arises from a due balance or temperature of these elements. But when this is by any means destroyed, the body is more or less disordered. And when this is the case, there is always in the first instance, an actual diminution of the internal natural active power of the element fire or caloric, and this diminution arises from the effect produced by its opposite, cold. The former may be denominated nature itself, the best physician of the human frame, the latter its enemy; the first is the life and health of the body, the last its dissolution.

V. That all disorders however various the symptoms, and different the names by which they are called, arise from the obstruction of insensible perspiration. The many evils derived from hence, must be obvious, when it is considered, that the discharge from the body thereby, is greater than by all the other evacuations combined. Obstructed perspiration may be produced from a great variety of causes. From anxiety and sorrow of mind, from severe study, from any sudden emotion, as anger or grief; from intemperance, as drunkenness, gluttony, or from too little sustenance; from sudden changes of habit, or in the atmosphere; from too much sleep, or too little; from bad air, or unwholesome diet; from wounds, bruises, burns, or chills; and from any injury, whether external or internal. In a word, from whatever diminishes the natural energy or the vital principle of nature.

Now, as all men have similar constitutions, being formed of the same materials differently tempered—as their construction and organization essentially agree—as they are all sustained from the same elements which form their composition—as a just balance or temperature of these elements produces health, and the reverse destroys it—as all diseases take their immediate rise from insensible perspiration in a greater or less degree obstructed—as this is an effect universally produced, from whatever is injurious to the system, may be the distant and original cause—it is evident, that those medicines which are most agreeable to nature, and efficacious in removing obstructions, and the evils thereby produced, must be the best, and as a general rule universally applicable.

All this, is indeed, very simple; yes! quite too simple to suit the refined taste of the learned Latin and Greeklings of this learned age, quite too plain and easy to be understood to suit the sons of the mineral and mystery loving Paracelsus.

Dr. Thomson does not, as some have supposed, contend that the four elements (before mentioned which compose all animal or or-

ganized bodies) are incapable of farther division; he only contends that a farther division is unnecessary to enable any person, even of common abilities, to understand the nature, cure, and prevention of all diseases, (provided the organs be sound) which flesh is heir to.

The *Thomsonian System* is not a compilation of the *rubbish* or the *relics* of the many contradictory authors of antiquity, nor did it have its origin in the closet; but on the contrary; it is a compilation of facts, collected by long and dear bought experience in attendance on the sick. We do not fear any thing that our enemies can say against the Botanic System; “for so be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength.” But on the contrary we seek open, candid, free inquiry on the subject; and the more open and free, the better it will be for the cause of truth.

Yours Respectfully

R. U.

THE DEPLETIVE, OR REDUCTIVE SYSTEM.

The following remarks are designed to show the impropriety of bleeding, blistering and purging with powerful physic, (such as calomel and jalap) starving, and of giving poison as medicine, which is so common among the medical faculty of the present day. The examination of this subject is of the utmost importance to the public; and is a subject that I wish to bring home to the serious consideration of the whole body of the people of this country, and enforce in the strongest manner on their minds, the pernicious consequences that have happened, and are daily taking place by reason of giving mercury, arsenic, nitre, opium and other deadly poisons to cure disease. It is admitted by those who make use of these things, that the introducing them into the system is very dangerous, and that they often prove fatal. During forty years practice, I have had opportunity to gain much experience on this subject, and am ready to declare that I am perfectly and decidedly convinced, beyond all doubt, that there can be no possible good derived from using in any manner or form whatever, those poisons; but on the other hand, there is a great deal of hurt done. More than nine-tenths of the chronic cases that have come under my care, have been such as had been run down with some one or the whole of the above named medical poisons; and the greatest difficulty I have had to encounter in removing the complaints which my patients labored under, has been to clear the system of mercury, nitre, or opium, and bring them back to the same state they were in before taking them. It is a very easy thing to get them into the system, but very difficult to get their pernicious and deleterious effects out again.

Those who make use of these things as medicine, seem to cloak the administering them under the specious pretence of great skill and

art in preparing and using them; but this kind of covering will not blind the people, if they would examine it and think for themselves, instead of believing that every thing said or done by a learned man must be right; for poison given to the sick by a person of the greatest skill, will have exactly the same effect as it would if given by a fool. The fact is, the operation of it is diametrically opposed to nature, and every particle of it, that is taken into the system, will strengthen the power of the enemy to health.

If there should be doubts in the minds of any one of the truth of what I have said concerning the articles I have named being poisonous and destructive to the constitution and health of man, I will refer them to the works published by those who recommend their use; where they will find evidence enough to satisfy the most credulous, of the dangerous consequences and fatal effects, of giving them as medicine. To remove all doubts of their being poison I will make a few extracts from standard medical works, as the best testimony that can be given in the case.

"*Muriate of Mercury*, is one of the most violent poisons with which we are acquainted. Externally it acts as an escharotic or a caustic; and in solution, it is used for destroying fungous flesh, and for removing hepetic eruptions; but even externally, it must be used with very great caution." "It is a well known fact that the workers in quicksilver mines are almost continually in a state of salivation. When condemned as criminals, to such labors for life, they drag out a miserable existence in *extreme debility* and *emaciation*, with *stiff, enervated limbs* and *total loss of teeth and appetite*, till death, in a few years, with a friendly stroke, puts a period to their sufferings."—Good's Study of medicine, vol. i. p. 78—9. "Like most other poisons, mercury may be rendered a valuable medicine; but, in this place, we can contemplate it only as the source of disease." *Ibid* p. 80. "Mercury is the most violent of poisons, when taken inadvertently in too large quantities."—Dr. Willich's Domestic Encyclopedia, vol. ii. p. 550. Yet, reader, this active poison is used as a medicine, and by being prepared in a different form, and a new name given it, (calomel) its good qualities are said to be invaluable, and is a certain cure for almost all diseases. Corrosive Sublimate—is an extremely poisonous preparation from mercury; (a virulent poison—few grains kill.—Sil. vol. ii, p. 318;) and from Corrosive Sublimate and mercury, rubbed together until they are perfectly incorporated, is formed Calomel."—Willich, vol. ii. p. 550.

"*Oxyd of Arsenic*, is one of the most sudden and violent poisons we are acquainted with. In mines, it causes the destruction of numbers of those who explore them: and it is frequently the instrument by which victims are sacrificed, either by the hand of wickedness or imprudence. The fumes of Arsenic are so deleterious to the lungs, that the artist ought to be on

his guard to prevent their exhalation by the mouth; for if they be mixed and swallowed with the saliva, effects will take place similar to those which follow its introduction into the stomach in a saline state, namely, a sensation of a piercing, gnawing, and burning kind, accompanied with an acute pain in the stomach and intestines, which last are violently contorted; convulsive vomiting; insatiable thirst, from the parched and rough state of the tongue and throat-hiccough, palpitation of the heart and a deadly oppression of the whole breast, succeed next; the matter ejected by the mouth, as well as the stools, exhibit a black, fœtid, and putrid appearance; at length with the mortification of the bowels, the pain subsides, and death terminates the sufferings of the patient." "When the quantity is so very small as not to prove fatal, tremors, paralysis, and lingering hectic succeed."

Notwithstanding this terrible description of the fatal effects of this article, the author says, "though the most violent of mineral poisons, arsenic, according to Murray, equals, when properly administered, the first medicines in the class of tonics." "Of all the diseases, says Dr. Duncan, in which white Oxyd of Arsenic has been used internally, there is none in which it has been so frequently and so successfully employed, as in the cure of intermittent fevers. We have now the most satisfactory information concerning this article, in the Medical Reports, of the effects of arsenic in the cure of agues, remitting fevers, and periodical headaches, by Dr. Fowler, of Stafford." Such are the powers of this medicine, that two grains of it are often sufficient to cure an intermittent that has continued for weeks! As an external remedy, arsenic has long been known as the basis of the celebrated *cancer powders*; "Arsenic has ever been applied in substance, sprinkled upon the ulcer; but this mode of using it is exceedingly painful, and extremely dangerous. There have been fatal effects produced from its absorption." No other escharotic possesses equal powers in cancerous affections; it not unfrequently amends the discharge, causes the sore to contract in size, and cases have been related of its having effected a cure. But, says Dr. Willich, "we are, on the combined testimony of many medical practitioners, conspicuous for their professional zeal and integrity, irresistibly induced to declare our opinion, at least, against the internal use of this active and dangerous medicine."

I shall leave it to the reader, to reconcile, if he can, the inconsistencies and absurdities of the above statements, of the effects of ratsbane; and ask himself the question, whether it can be possible, for an article, the use of which is attended with such consequences, to be in any shape or form, proper to be used as medicine; yet it is a well known fact, that this poison is in constant use among the faculty, and forms the principal ingredient in most of those nostrums sold throughout the country, under the names of drops, powders, washes, balsams, &c.

and there can be no doubt that thousands either die, or become miserable invalids in consequence.

"*Antimony*, in the modern nomenclature, is the name given to a peculiar metal. The antimonial metal is a medicine of the greatest power of any known substance; a quantity too minute to be sensible in the most delicate balance, is capable of producing violent effects, if taken dissolved, or in a soluble state." "Sulphureted antimony was employed by the ancients in Collyria, against inflammation of the eyes, and for staining the eyebrows black. Its internal use does not seem to have been established till the end of the fifteenth century; and even at that time it was by many looked upon as poisonous." "All the metallic preparations are uncertain, as it entirely depends on the state of the stomach, whether they have no action at all, or operate with dangerous violence." "The principal general medicinal application of antimony has been for the use of febrile affections." "In the latter stage of fever, where debility prevails, its use is inadmissible." Of the propriety of using this metal as medicine, I shall leave it to the reader to judge for himself.

"*Nitre*. Salt-Petre. This salt, consisting of nitric acid and potash, is found ready formed on the surface of the soil in warm climates." "Purified nitre is prescribed with advantage in numerous disorders. Its virtues are those of a refrigerent and diuretic. It is usually given in doses from two or three grains to a scruple, being a very cooling and resolvent medicine, which by relaxing the spasmodic rigidity of the vessels, promotes not only the secretion of urine, but at the same time insensible perspiration, in febrile disorders; while it allays thirst and abates heat; though in malignant cases in which the pulse is low, and the patient's strength exhausted, it produces contrary effects." "This powerful salt, when inadvertently taken in too large quantities, is one of the most fatal poisons." "For some interesting observations relative to the deleterious properties of salt-petre, the reader is referred to Dr. Mitchell's letter to Dr. Priestly."

I have found from a series of practical experiments for many years, that salt-petre has the most certain and deadly effects upon the human system, of any drug that is used as medicine. Although the effects produced by it are not so immediately fatal as many others, yet its whole tendency is to counteract the principles of life, and destroy the operation of nature. Experience has taught me that it is the most powerful enemy to health, and that it is the most difficult opponent to encounter, with any degree of success, that I have ever met with. Being in its nature *cold*, there cannot be any other effects produced by it, than to increase the power of that enemy of heat, and to lessen its necessary influence.

"*Opium*, when taken into the stomach to such an extent as to have any sensible effect, gives rise to a pleasant serenity of the mind,

in general proceeding to a certain degree of languor and drowsiness." "It excites thirst and renders the mouth dry and parched." "Taken into the stomach in a larger dose, gives rise to confusion of the head and vertigo. The powers of all stimulating causes of making impressions on the body are diminished; and even at times, and in situations, when a person would naturally be awake, sleep is irresistibly induced. In still larger doses, it acts in the same manner as the narcotic poisons, giving rise to vertigo, headache, tremors, delirium and convulsions; and these terminating in a state of stupor, from which the person cannot be roused. This stupor is accompanied with slowness of the pulse, and with stertor in breathing, and the scene is terminated in death, attended with the same appearances as take place in an apoplexy." "In intermittents it is said to have been used with good effect." "It is often of very great service in fevers of the typhoid type." "In small pox, when the convulsions before eruption are frequent and considerable, opium is liberally used." "In cholera and pyrosis, it is almost the only thing trusted to." "The administration of opium to the unaccustomed, is sometimes very difficult. The requisite quantity of opium is wonderfully different in different persons and in different states of the same person. A quarter of a grain will in one adult produce effects which ten times the quantity will not do in another. The lowest fatal dose to the unaccustomed, as mentioned by authors, seems to be four grains; but a dangerous dose is so apt to puke, that it has seldom time to occasion death."

From the above extracts, it will readily be seen, that the use of opium, as medicine, is very dangerous, at least, if not destructive to health; its advocates, it will be observed, do not pretend that it will cure any disorder, but is used as a palliative for the purpose of easing pain, by destroying sensibility. Pain is caused by disease, and there can be no other way to relieve it, but by removing the cause. Sleep produced by opium is unnatural, and affords no relief to the patient, being nothing more than a suspension of his senses; and it might with as much propriety be said, that a state of delirium is beneficial, for a person in that situation is not sensible of pain. The fact is, opium is a poison, and when taken into the system, produces no other effect than to strengthen the power of the enemy to health, by deadening the sensible organs of the stomach and intestines, and preventing them from performing their natural functions, so important to the maintaining of health and life. In all the cases that have come within my knowledge, where the patient has been long in the habit of taking opium, I have found it almost impossible, after removing the disease, to restore the digestive powers of the stomach.

I have made the forgoing extracts on the subject of poisons, for the purpose of giving a more plain and simple view of the pernicious consequences caused by their being given as med-

icine, than I could do in any other manner. In this short address, it is impossible to do that justice to the subject that I could wish, and which its importance demands; but I am not without hope, that what is here given will satisfy every candid person who reads it, of the truth of those principles, which it has been at all times my endeavor to inculcate, for the benefit of mankind, and convince them, that what has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health.

In conclusion I shall make a few brief remarks on the practice of physic; or what is scientifically called the depletive (or reductive) system. To elucidate this practice, I will call the attention of the reader to the first stages of sickness; whatever name the sickness may be called, or whether the patient be male or female, the same depletive practice is introduced; such as bleeding, blistering and purging with powerful physic, such as calomel and jalap. Then comes the laudanum to check the operation and stupify the patient, and all this is to ease the distress caused by the physic. Then the doctor continues with small doses of calomel, opium, nitre and camphor, until the patient is fixed out with what is called the *run* of a fever.

Now, reader, just take a general survey of the calamities of the world. The condition of a great portion of mankind is truly deplorable, and has been ever since the healing art was lost, and the plants and herbs of the field and forest ceased to be used as medicine; and since poison minerals of the rankest dye were substituted in their stead by Paracelsus, who in consequence was called a *hater of mankind*. Dr. Robinson says, "Paracelsus gave the tartrate of antimony, because it burnt up the stomach and lungs like hell fire." If this expression be true, I think it sufficient to prove the truth of his being a hater of mankind. In addition to this physic dealer and hater of mankind, comes Sydenham, who introduced bleeding to cure disease. These two plagues being joined in matrimony, against the life and health of mankind, I think, have caused the greatest plagues that ever infested the earth. The writer says that after Sydenham introduced bleeding into the practice of physic, in the space of one hundred years, "more died with the lancet alone, than all that perished by war in that time." Stop, reader, and reflect for a moment; and say to thyself, can any being be so destitute of common sense, except a learned fool, as to believe that the same practice that will kill a well hog would cure a sick man; or that that practice which will cure a sick man, would kill a well rat? For example; when the doctor comes to cure a sick man, he bleeds him. When a butcher comes to kill a well hog, he bleeds him. When a farmer wishes to kill a well rat, he poisons him. When the doctor comes to cure a sick man, he poisons him. Could any one believe that a learned doctor ever possessed a human body, when he sees him take the same method to cure a sick man, that the butcher takes to kill a well hog; and

also when he takes the same method to cure a sick man, that the farmer takes to kill his well rats? And what adds further to our astonishment, is, to see those human butchers climb on law legs to take the little property from the orphan children for butchering their parent! Can any one wonder at their seeing their need of law legs, when their mal-practice is seen in all its naked deformity? Sad dilemma! Has their boasted scientific knowledge of four thousand years come to such a rotten and crumbling condition as to need the prop of the law to support it in its last dying moments? Farewell physic!

Thus, by what I have written, the reader will have some faint conception of my views of the practice of physic; that it is the beginning of sickness and a train of accumulated evils, ending in poverty, misery and untimely death. In consequence of the foregoing practice of physic, well might we exclaim as did the wise man, "Thou fool, why shouldst thou die before thy time?" Because, like the foolish Galatians, they were bewitched by, and ran after, the name *learning*, and a *learned doctor*, and have suffered all their natural sentinels to be knocked down, and the poison to be swallowed, without being allowed to examine or taste for themselves, until they are swept off like rats; and that, too, before the meridian of life, by the physic of the doctor, and the malice of those who kill them with poison according to law; and at the same time, it is evident that the doctors believe the botanic practice to be the best in the world, as the following particulars will show.

1. They do not allow that any patients ought to die, under the botanic practice. This is proof that they believe it far preferable to their mineral practice.

2. When the dealers in physic can get no relief from their own poison practice, they will flee for refuge to the botanic practice.

These two witnesses are sufficient to establish the fact, viz: that they do believe the botanic practice to be far preferable to their own. The extraordinary cures by the botanic practice they cannot deny.

S. T.

A TYPE OF PHYSIC.—An ingenious author has written a treatise against the use of chemicals and galenicals, instead of *dietetics*, in which *he proves*, that the woes consequent to the pouring out of the vials in the revelations, are typical of the ills which arise from taking physic.

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

CORRESPONDENCE. A correspondent of Elkton, Ky., remarks, "Our cause is at least one-fourth stronger than when I last wrote. The faculty and their dupes are still quite energetic: they seem to be renewing their efforts, but to no purpose. They do not stumble at misrepresentations or false report. Poisons seems to be under their tongues, as well as in their shops.

July 21.

J. H. H.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—*Milton.*

BOSTON, NOVEMBER, 1835.

Pursuant to what we have said in our Prospectus, we shall lay before the public some of the difficulties the father of the *Thomsonian* system of practice has had to encounter within a few years, and since the system has been more generally known, and of course more generally approved of. To those who possess the Family Right, the former difficulties, though but a small proportion of what occurred, are set forth in the Narrative, and need not be repeated here. Few men living, perhaps, have had so many obstacles to encounter, and yet has got along with them so well as the founder of the *Thomsonian* system. Fifty thousand dollars, it is presumed, would not make good the losses he has sustained by the unfaithfulness or treachery of Agents. Many seem to be anxious to make improvements on the system; which is certainly laudable, if they can do it; but instead of improving, they (under the pretence of improving) attempt to rob the founder of the benefit of his discoveries and his dear bought rights. From Agents, they seem to wish to become Proprietors, without paying an equivalent for the same. Several books have been published, some of which are wholly spurious, others purport to be improvements on the *Thomsonian* system. Among the latter is one by Horton Howard, in Ohio; but he, and four or five others in his own family, fell victims to the cholera under the treatment of his own improvements, when, as we verily believe, pure *Thomsonian* treatment might have saved them. The conduct of Elias Smith towards Samuel Thomson is well known; or if not, we would refer our readers to a pamphlet entitled "A Portrait of the conduct of Elias Smith towards Dr. Samuel Thomson, from 1817 up to 1832." It may be had gratuitously at this office. With Dr. John Locke, whose name is mentioned in the Narrative, and against

whom there were some complaints, a reconciliation has taken place, and his agency has been renewed: and we hope there will be no more cause of complaint from this source. With others there is still a serious difficulty, and several suits are now pending; one in which *ten thousand dollars* damages are claimed, and on the issue of which the question will be decided whether Dr. Thomson has any rights which can be sustained or not. Many are practising on the *Thomsonian* system, without any Right, and without any Agency whatever; some of whom their agencies have been revoked, and others never had any. Among the former are Jesse Thompson, of this city, and John A. Brown, now gone to Providence, R. I., where he has come out with a splendid advertisement, of nearly a whole column in length, without even mentioning the name of Dr. Thomson, or the most distant allusion to his system of practice. Among the latter are P. D. Badger, of this city, who has had the impudence to advertise a '*Thomsonian* Botanic Infirmary,' without the least authority whatever, and W. C. Martin, of Salem, Mass., who has advertised and is practising in the same manner. If these are suffered to go on with impunity at present, it is because we do not wish to have too many suits pending at the same time. But still, we submit to a candid and discerning public, whether such should be patronized in their nefarious purposes or not. It tends to injure the real *Thomsonian* practitioner, especially when they set up in the same neighborhood, because people do not know, and hitherto have had no means of knowing the difference. It also injures the *Thomsonian* system of practice; because all the mismanagement and failures in attempting to cure disease, from whatever cause they may arise, are attributed to the *Thomsonian* system. We have known many who have become very much prejudiced against the system who have had no means of knowing any thing about it, except what has been derived from the same or similar sources as those we have above named. But we are in hopes to be able now to set the public right on these subjects, by giving them that information which has been so long needed. And we hope and trust that, when the public are rightly informed, people will be disposed to do what is just and honorable in the case, both to the founder of

the system as well as to the trespassers on his rights, without compelling us to have a recourse to the law.

An extract from an elegant author.

OF PHYSICIANS.

PHYSICIANS appear to be less unfavorably situated than their brethren of the bar and of the church; for we may be friendly and virtuous without depriving physicians of their livelihood. Yet are they also, to a certain extent, viciously situated.

It is a very common opinion that men and women cannot be trained to be their own physicians; and it is probable that there are cases of rare or complicated disease, or of dangerous accident, in which the experience gained by extensive medical practice, may be necessary to suggest a remedy, or to perform an operation. But in nine cases, at least, out of ten, a very moderate acquaintance with the human body, and with its functions, and with the causes that impair, and the precautions that preserve these, would enable us with ease to cure, or—yet better—to prevent, the nascent indisposition. This is a fact which has repeatedly been acknowledged, both in private and in public, by the most eminent physicians. And its accuracy is the less to be doubted, inasmuch as it is notoriously the pecuniary interest of physicians to conceal it.

Admitting, then, its truth, how injurious the ignorance in which children are kept of what it most concerns them to know! And how desirable, that a few, at least, of the days and years that are spent in learning the languages and the customs of two semi-barbarous nations of antiquity, should be devoted to learn that, the knowledge of which will advantage us every day of our lives.

But, however desirable for the mass of mankind, that they should be taught how to retain that first of blessings, health; and that they should further be taught how to retain it, when lost;—it is *not* the interest of the physician. It is not his interest, that his neighbors should know any thing about their own bodies: it is not his interest that they should be taught how to retain their health, nor how to arrest an incipient malady by some simple remedy. Other men's ignorance is his gain. Their follies fill his purse. If they were educated as common sense dictates, he would be a poorer man. If they knew what they ought to know, his knowledge would turn to less account. Common sense, therefore, is, in a pecuniary point of view, the physician's enemy.

Again, how important is it, that men and women should know the consequences of excess; and that, knowing these, they should not be tempted to act against their knowledge! How inexpressibly important that there should be no gin-shops, nor any of those houses—the bane of great cities—where popular morality

abandons to disease and death its outcast victims!

Yet it is the physician's interest that all this should go on. Intemperance is his patron. A debauch is a harvest for him. Gin-shops and brothels make him a rich man. Each ruined constitution brings him a customer and a fee. He may—doubtless he does, lament all this, for no one knows all its horrors as he does; but he must be more or less than man, if he does not feel that he lives by it.

The physician knows that the customs and the morality which are now popular, produce both vice and disease. The honest and enlightened physician will tell you so. He will tell you, that monkish chastity and brutal license are, equally, the causes of misery and disease. He will tell you, that health and peace of mind, are to be found in moderation only, and that *extremes* have filled his consulting-room and his purse. Ask him how it happens that so many of the young and unmarried of both sexes appear on the list of his patients; and he will tell you of the prudish severity with which society dooms one sex to unnatural restraints, and of the temporizing injustice with which she winks at the scarcely-veiled libertinism of the other. Ask him what *he* thinks of the professions of the popularly moral; and he will tell you that they are commonly as hollow, as the reality of these professions were unnatural and pernicious. Ask him what *he* thinks of popular morality, in itself; and he will tell you, that, *as a physiologist*, he disapproves and condemns it. But, as a physician, he profits by it; unwillingly, indeed, if he be an honest and a worthy man, but yet positively and certainly. If society's customs, and society's morality, encouraged moderation in all things, and discountenanced, not whatever was opposed to her capricious etiquette, but whatever was opposed to health of body and tranquility of mind—men would be happier and better; but physicians would lose their practice.

However beneficial, therefore, it might be, that we should know our own diseases, and learn to prevent and to cure them, we must not expect that physicians, as a class, will take much pains to destroy their own avocation. We must not expect them to tell us (however well they know it) that we are the best judges of our own sensations; that we can detect symptoms in ourselves that are hidden from them; that we have the most experience of our own constitutions; and that, thus, *even with an inferior knowledge of medical science*, we can prescribe much more readily and rationally for ourselves, than any other person can for us. We must not expect that physicians will risk at once their reputation and their fortunes, in order to tell us, that if we were but rational and practical physiologists, we should regret the morality which now prevails, as unnatural, and productive of suffering and disease: nor can we require that physicians should labor zealously to promote temperance and thus to prevent disease. All this it were unreasonable to ex-

pect, because men do not like to ruin themselves, nor even to diminish their own earnings.

If we wish to make it the interest of physicians that mankind be temperate, prudent, rational, and healthy, let us pay them, like the medical attendant of the Chinese Emperor, in proportion as we escape disease; but if we desire to make ourselves independent and usefully intelligent, let us go still farther. Let us recollect, that to be a practical physiologist, is incomparably more important, than to be a latinist or a greekling. If *we* are too old to learn, let us give our children a knowledge of themselves; let us bid them attend carefully to their own sensations; let us gradually make them their own physicians. We shall not then see them first ruining their own constitutions, and then paying to have them patched up again. We shall not see them tempting disease and death with their eyes shut, and horror struck when at last they discover the natural consequences of their conduct; ignorantly imprudent today, and weakly apprehensive tomorrow; committing excesses one hour, and soliciting prescriptions the next. As, when we are our own servants, our wants diminish, so, if we were our own physicians, would our diseases decrease.

Remark. The above can only be applicable to the regular physician. It is not applicable to *Thomsonians* as the two following substantial reasons will show: first; it is an object of primary importance with every *Thomsonian* to make every man his own physician. Secondly, the labor and constant attention necessary in administering medicine to the sick on the *Thomsonian* plan, on the part of the Botanic Physician, renders his occupation less desirable than that of the regular practitioner, for while the latter obtains a livelihood with his coat on and by simply paying a visit once a day and occasionally writing a prescription and sending an order to the apothecary, and then leaving the good nurse to administer the medicine herself: the former obtains a living by his constant personal attention on his patient, and by his willingness to take off his *coat*, and to part with the sweat of his brow.—ED.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS IN THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—The operator enters a crowded theatre just as a favorite actor steps upon the boards of Covent Garden—bows to the company, and eyes his patient as a hungry man eyes a fowl he is on the point of dismembering. Every thing is ready—one assistant holds the knife, another the saw, a third a retractor, a fourth the tenaculum, a fifth stands ready with the ligatures, and the dressings are all laid in exact

order. The tourniquet is now screwed down, watches are pulled out, and all is breathless expectation to see how soon he can get through. He takes hold of the knife, sweeps it round the limb, uses his saw, and lo! five minutes, and the theatre is evacuated: and this is trumpeted forth as the perfection of skill! Philip of Macedon ordered the man who, by dint of unwearied practice, could throw a pea with unerring exactness through the eye of a large needle—a bag of peas as a recompense. James the Second gave the adventurer who clambered up the outside of a church tower a patent to enable him to practise his hair brained folly without competition; and I would advise these quick operators to carry a coat of arms, bearing a figure of death, supporting an hour-glass just run out. It would be a curious inquiry to seek out how many lives have been lost by such measures; that a proper degree of haste is desirable in operations so exquisitely painful, as a means of shortening the agony which has to be undergone, is undeniable. The miserable wretch is on the rack, and to keep him there one second beyond what his safety demands would be a refinement of cruelty deserving the severest reprobation; but this affords him no argument for making him an object on which the surgeon may display his dexterity, and acquire notoriety without any reference to his safety. To hurry over an operation which, under the most favorable circumstances is dangerous, and frequently ends in death, ought to brand a man with a stigma of irredeemable disgrace: and to place a patient on an operating table, without the most absolute necessity demands it, and before every means have been tried, is a reproach which approximates very nearly to heinous criminality. To cut off a limb, or to perform any other great operation, is not followed of course by the recovery of the patient; were it not so, less might be said; but it is only substituting one risk for another, and very often snaps the thread of life, which, had nature been left to her own resources, might have held for years. I have seen numbers of cases, in which an operation has been declared, by what was supposed to be competent authority, to be quite essential to the life of the patient, but in which fear or despair has induced the party to refuse to submit to the knife, and yet he has recovered and lived for many years—a standing reproach to science. The mortality attending the great operations is very high, perhaps as high as five out of eight, though it is impossible to give a correct average. In those hospitals, and in the practice of those gentlemen who are fond of using desperate remedies, and from which reports are given, which seem to show that they have been very successful, the reports are not to be taken as the whole truth. A convenient division is made, one portion of which never meets the public eye; and this is, that a great proportion of the fatal cases are set down as having been past hope before any operation was performed; and these are kept in the back

ground and nothing said of them. But if such cases were past expectation of relief, why operate at all? Why add the agony of lopping away a member, removing a tumor, cutting down upon an artery, or opening the bladder, to the pains of the disease, and thus do away with that *vis medicatrix naturæ*, which in extremity, when the sufferer is abandoned by hope and his doctor, so often steps in and cures him? It is much to be wished, therefore, that the profession would purge itself, as far as possible, from operative surgery, and look upon the knife as a melancholy proof of their own insufficiency. So long, however, as it builds its reputation upon this, young men will be led away by its eclat; and the public, which easily grasps at whatever is remarkable, whether for cruelty or boldness, will be with difficulty persuaded of the injury done to society by such ignorant and barbarous practices.—*Constitutional Magazine*.

MENTAL DISCIPLINE.—In the entrance on a course of mental discipline, the effort to fix the attention for any length of time on the object of study is found to be difficult, if not irksome. Ideas which would divert the mind into a different train of thought are suggested, either by external circumstances, or by the subject under consideration; and as many of these may be more interesting, as well as more familiar to the mind, they are not repressed without difficulty, and they still recur after reiterated efforts of exclusion. This state of mind induces much more painful fatigue than the most vigorous efforts of attention, especially as it is associated with the feelings of dissatisfaction and regret. In this case, to use the words of Mr. Stewart, "it is not an exclusive and steady attention that we give to the object, but we are losing sight of it, and recurring to it every instant; and the painful efforts of which we are conscious are not (as we are apt to suppose to be) efforts of uncommon attention, but unsuccessful attempts to keep the mind steady to its object, and to exclude the extraneous ideas which are from time to time soliciting its notice."

In proportion to the facility of repelling the intrusion of these extraneous ideas, and of directing a fixed attention to the object of study, the mind is prepared for success in the operation of intellect. There is even reason to attribute mental superiority in no small degree to the possession of an habitual power to control over the train of thought which occupies the mind; and to this power of attention we are informed, Sir Isaac Newton himself ascribed his loftiest attainment in science.

Our readers will notice that wherever we introduce the name of *Dr. Samuel Thomson*, we shall put it in *Italic*, to distinguish it from several by the name of Thompson who are using the *Thomsonian System*, some with and some without authority. We mean to give each individual his just due and nothing more.

Thanks were lately returned in the churches of Paris for the preservation of the King. One divine said, "The merchant quits his business to throw himself at the foot of the altar; the artisan quits his work; the physician quits his patient, and the patient is so much the better for it."

GARRICK AND DOCTOR HILL.—Garrick's epigrams, which usually turned upon some little circumstance of the day, have much point. They sometimes drew forth the additional flashes of his friends, and sometimes the retort of those at whom they were aimed; as in the following, addressed to the redoubtable and eccentric doctor, afterwards Sir John Hill.

"For physic and farces,
Thy equal there scarce is;
Thy farces are physic,
Thy physic a farce is."

The two next, were afterwards inserted in the public prints, and said to be written by some of Mr. Garrick's friends.

"Thou essence of dock, of valerian, and sage,
At once the disgrace and the pest of this age,
The worst that we wish thee for all thy d—d crimes,
Is to take thy own physic, and read thy own rhymes."

"THE JUNTO."

Answer to the Junto.

"Their wish in form must be reverst,
To suit the doctor's crimes;
For he who takes his physic first,
Will never read his rhymes."

"ANOTHER JUNTO."

This was too bad, and the doctor sent to one of the papers the following answer:

"Ye desperate Junto, ye great or ye small,
Who combat dukes, doctors, the devil and all,
Whether gentlemen, scribblers, or poets in jail,
Your impertinent curses shall never prevail;
I'll take neither sage, dock, valerian, or honey,
Do you take the physic, and I'll take the money."

In England the number of lives dependent on a first-rate manufacturing establishment may be reckoned not by hundreds but by thousands. One leading firm in Manchester is said to pay a million a year wages. One branch of manufacture (cotton) in England alone, exclusive of North Britain, is calculated habitually to employ in factories, exclusive of hand-loom weavers, printers, bleachers, dyers, cotton thread lace makers (an important and increasing branch of industry,) no less than 212,800 individuals and to distribute annually amongst them in weekly wages, £5,777,434, 14s. 1d.

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Poetry.

ON THE BOTANIC SYSTEM OF PRACTICE.

ATTEND, my friends, and lend an ear;
It is of consequence to hear,
And this remark, that through our days,
Heat's life and health, in different ways.

It animates our frame complete,
The sun is life, and full of heat;
With the glad influence of his beams,
He cheers the earth, warms the chill'd streams;

Makes all creation joy and sing,
To vegetation gives its spring;
Corn, wine and oil, herb, fruit, and flower,
Are ripen'd by his kindly power.

Fish, fowl, and beast, in diff'rent ways,
Feel life and health in his blest rays;
But man, creation's noblest boast,
Feels, and should own his blessings most.

I think you all will yield assent,
Whom nature's laws approve,
That heat's the only element,
That makes creation move.

Look at the earth in winter time,
Fields, trees, plants, flow'rs decayed,
Then view again when spring returns,
Them rising from the dead.

By this we find that coldness kills,
That heat makes all things rife;
And that the influence of the sun,
Gives all creation life.

When fire 'bove water bears the sway,
It through the pores wastes it away;
When this is general throughout,
The man is healthy, firm, and stout.

But when the water overpowers,
The stomach's chill'd and shut the pores;
The elements then temper well,
And health with you shall ever dwell.

Our Father, whom all goodness fills,
Provides the means, to cure all ills;
The simple herbs, beneath our feet,
Well us'd, relieve our pains complete.

While doctors rove in foreign parts,
And rack their powers, and skill, and arts;
Health's medicines grow upon our land,
They're ours, by stretching forth our hand.

This art I studied from my youth,
And now assert it as a truth;
I can them use in different ways,
And turn a fever in two days.

If any one should be much bruised,
Where bleeding frequently is us'd
A lively sweat upon that day,
Will start the blood a better way.

Let names of all disorders be,
Like to the limbs join'd on a tree;
Work on the root, and that subdued,
Then all the limbs will bow to you;

So as the body is the tree,
The limbs are cholic, pleurisy,
Worms and gravel, gout and stone,
Remove the cause and they are gone.

My system's founded on this truth,
Man's Air and Water, Fire and Earth;
And Death is cold, and life is heat,
These temper'd well, your health's complete.

How oft we hear the doctors say,
"The Fever, it must have its way!"
If that's the case, I would ask you,
What good, they or their medicines do?

Man is perplexed, and much to do,
That has a talent forth to show;
Much opposition he will find,
If 'tis against the common kind.

Must man be silent, while he's breath,
And hide his talent in the earth;
When nature urges him to move,
And not the gift of heaven improve?

Like Absalom, I'd sooner bear,
To be suspended by the hair;
Than silent lie, devoid of good,
And not improve the gift of God.

S. T.

ANECDOTES.

"Church and State."—"You must be careful, or you will get the Cholera," said a person a few days since to a disciple of Bacchus. "Don't tell me such stuff," said he, "I understand all about it; this Cholera is a plan of the priests to unite Church and State! The above is a fact that actually occurred a few weeks since, in one of our country villages.—*Genius of Temp.*

The Nantucket Inquirer says—"A hearty laugh is occasionally an act of wisdom; it shakes the cobwebs out of a man's brains, and the hypochondria from his ribs, far more effectually than either champagne or blue pills."

A person once said to a father, whose son was noted for laziness, that he thought his son was very much afraid of work. Afraid of work, replied the father, not at all; he will lay down and go to sleep close to the side of it.

Quackery—"Madam," said a quack of Long Island, to a nervous old lady, "your case is a scrutunutury complaint." "Pray, Doctor, what is that?" "It is the dropping of the nerves, madam; the nerves have fallen into the pyzarintum; the chistoreum becomes morberoseous, and the head goes twisarizen, twisarizen!" "Ah, Doctor," exclaimed the old lady, "you have described my feelings exactly."—*Recorder.*

Physicians have been tinkering the constitution for about ten thousand years, to cure diseases, and the result of all their discoveries is that brimstone and mercury are the only two specifics. Diseases remain what they ever were.—*Lacon.*

The number of deaths in Cincinnati during the months of July and August, was 216. Last year, during the same months, 463.





